

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-20

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CEA-02 CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00 EB-11

FRB-02 H-03 INR-10 INT-08 L-03 LAB-06 NSAE-00 NSC-07

PA-04 RSC-01 AID-20 CIEP-02 SS-20 STR-08 TAR-02

TRSE-00 USIA-15 PRS-01 SP-03 FEA-02 OMB-01 SWF-02

IO-14 AF-10 EA-11 EUR-25 NEA-14 PC-04 DRC-01 /233 W

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P 171516Z MAY 74

FM AMEMBASSY CARACAS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 3847

INFO DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

UNCLAS CARACAS 04431

TO: PERMANENT MISSION TO THE OAS

FROM: WEST, US DELEGATE TO THE IA INSTITUTE OF AGRICULTURAL SCIENCES

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: OCON, VE

SUBJ: INTER-AMERICAN INSTITUTE OF AGRICULTURAL SCIENCES

1. THE PRESIDENT OF VENEZUELA INAUGURATED THE 13TH ANNUAL MEETING OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE INTER-AMERICAN INSTITUTE OF AGRICULTURAL SCIENCES MAY 15. IN HIS ADDRESS THE PRESIDENT DEPLORED THE BACKWARD CONDITION OF AGRICULTURE IN LATIN AMERICA. HE CHARGED THE LARGER MORE DEVELOPED COUNTRIES WITH ECONOMIC TOTALITARIANISM IN PAYING LOW PRICES FOR RAW MATERIALS EXPORTED FROM LESS DEVELOPED COUNTRIES AND CHARGING HIGH PRICES FOR MANUFACTURED PRODUCTS WHICH THEY NEED TO BUY. THE AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE OIL PRODUCING COUNTRIES IS THE FIRST TIME THE LESS DEVELOPED COUNTRIES HAVE BEEN ABLE TO ALTER THE TERMS OF TRADE IN THEIR FAVOR.

2. HE SAID THE OAS WILL HAVE TO CHANGE ITS STRUCTURE SO AS TO BE OF MORE SERVICE TO THE COUNTRIES OF THE HEMISPHERE. ALSO IF
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THE U.S. WISHES TO MAINTAIN ITS PRESTIGE AND INFLUENCE, IT WOULD

HAVE TO MAKE A REAL CHANGE OF DIRECTION.

3. HE ANNOUNCED THAT THE GOVERNMENT OF VENEZUELA WAS ESTABLISHING A FUND OF TWO BILLION BOLIVARES (\$467 MILLION) TO IMPROVE AGRICULTURE IN THAT COUNTRY, WHICH WOULD INCLUDE DEBT RELIEF FOR SMALL AND MEDIUM FARMERS.

4. HE INVITED OTHERS COUNTRIES TO JOIN VENEZUELA IN ESTABLISHING A SPECIAL FUND FOR AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT AND SAID THAT VENEZUELA WOULD CONTRIBUTE HALF OF THIS FUND. THE AMOUNT WAS NOT ANNOUNCED BUT HE TOLD THE PRESS THAT IT SHOULD BE AT LEAST TWENTY MILLION U.S. DOLLAR EQUIVALENT. A PERIOD OF FIVE YEARS WAS MENTIONED BUT HE SAID THAT TIME WAS NOT IMPORTANT.

5. AT THE FIRST REGULAR SESSION OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS, THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE OF VENEZUELA CONFIRMED THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THIS FUND TO BE ADMINISTERED BY THE INTER-AMERICAN INSTITUTE OF AGRICULTURAL SCIENCES AND GAVE THE BOARD THE RESPONSIBILITY OF SETTING UP A COMMITTEE TO SPELL OUT THE PURPOSES AND CONDITIONS OF THIS FUND.

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